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**Urban District Council of Rishton.**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

INCLUDING DETAILS OF WORK

DONE BY THE

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

FOR THE DISTRICT OF RISHTON FOR THE

**YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952.**

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*Medical Officer of Health—*

Dr. R. C. WEBSTER,  
19, St. James Street,  
ACCRINGTON.  
Tel. Accrington. 4223.

*Sanitary Inspector—*

S. PILKINGTON, Esq.,  
Council Offices,  
Brook Street,  
RISHTON,  
Nr. Blackburn.  
Tel. Gt. Harwood 2264.

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Council Offices,  
Rishton.

July, 1953.

# To the Chairman and Members OF THE Urban District Council of Rishton.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my interim report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of Rishton for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,878.4
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£34,296
Estimated Product of 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£135
Population 1951 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,794
Estimated 1952 Mid-year Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,741

Rishton is a small Urban area whose chief industries are cotton, felt and carpet weaving and paper making.

## Vital Statistics

Death Rate (crude)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.0
Death Rate (adjusted)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.5
Death Rate—England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.3
Live Birth Rate (crude)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.3
Live Birth Rate (adjusted)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.7
Live Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.3
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Maternal mortality Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Infant mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Neo-natal mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17

There were 59 live births and 1 stillbirth registered during 1952, and 86 deaths from all causes. The birth rate and the death rate have both decreased, the birth rate from 12.1 to 10.3, and the death rate from 15.7 to 15.0. The average age at death was 67.8 years and it is satisfactory to record that 52.4 per cent. of all deaths took place at the age of 70 or over and 19.0 per cent. of all deaths at the age of 80 or over.

### **Infectious Diseases**

As will be seen from the tables at the rear of the report, Measles was the only disease of note during the year. No cases of Diphtheria or Infantile Paralysis were notified. It is to be hoped that this great improvement, the absence of Diphtheria brought about by immunisation, does not lead to complacency on the part of parents in having their children immunised. Any slackening of effort would soon bring a return of this dangerous disease.

### **LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The local Health and Welfare Services under the National Health and Assistance Acts, are administered in Rishton by the Lancashire County Council Number 5 Health Division.

Miss E. Singleton is the Health Visitor/School Nurse for the Rishton District and the following are the services administered at the Child Welfare and School Clinic, 108, High Street, Rishton. Tel. Great Harwood 3177.

1. Ante-natal Clinic      1st and 3rd Weds. each month.
2. Child Welfare Clinic   Each Tuesday afternoon.
3. Minor Ailment Clinic   Each Monday and Friday morning.
4. Immunisation Clinic   As and when arranged.
5. Orthopaedic Clinic      Each Wednesday.
6. Ophthalmic Clinic      Alt. Monday Afternoons (By appointment).

The County Midwife for Rishton is Miss M. H. Rogerson, of 27, Blackburn Road, Rishton. Tel. Great Harwood 3205.

The County District Nurse for the area is Mrs. E. Puttick, of 132 High Street, Rishton. Tel. Great Harwood 2055.

To obtain the Ambulance Service ring—Accrington 4780.



## STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952

	Total	Males	Females
Live Births—Legitimate ... ..	59	27	32
Live Births—Illegitimate ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>32</b>

Still Births ... ..	1	1	Nil
Deaths ... ..	86	45	41

## SUMMARY OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ... ..	5	1	6
Tuberculosis (other) ... ..	1	—	1
Meningococcal Infections ... ..	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasms (Stomach) ... ..	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasms (other) ... ..	6	1	7
Leukaemia ... ..	—	1	1
Diabetes ... ..	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ... ..	3	8	11
Coronary Disease ... ..	6	2	8
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	3	1	4
Other Heart Disease ... ..	4	2	6
Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	1	1	2
Influenza ... ..	—	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	3	4	7
Bronchitis ... ..	5	4	9
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	1	—	1
Nephritis ... ..	2	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	11	13
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	1	—	1
All other accidents ... ..	1	—	1
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>86</b>

## TUBERCULOSIS

### New Cases and Mortality During 1952

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Rep.		Respiratory		Non-Rep.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
10—	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
35—	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
45—	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
55—	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
65—	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
75 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0
Total	9		5		4		0	

### PUBLIC HEALTH TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1930

Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register on the 31st December, 1952, is as follows:

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total		
M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
20	17	37	7	8	15	27	25	52

As compared with the figures at the 31st December, 1951, which are as follows:—

M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
23	12	35	6	4	10	29	16	45

### Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified During the Year

Notifiable Disease	Total cases all ages	0	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	2			1	1					
Measles	118		20	61	35		1	1		
Whooping Cough	3	1	1			1				
Acute Pneumonia	5	1			1			2	1	
Erysipelas	2							1		1
Total cases in each age group	130	2	21	62	37	1	1	4	1	1

Yours faithfully,

R. C. WEBSTER,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,  
Brook Street,  
Rishton.

# Report of the Sanitary Inspector

**For the Year Ended 31st December, 1952**

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1952. The year has seen the introduction of the Food Handling Byelaws which were confirmed by the Ministry of Food on the 10th January, 1952, and came into operation on the 11th February, 1952. A more complete awareness, on the part of both public and traders, in the hygienic handing of food has been observed.

I am grateful to the officials and staff for the help I have received, and to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their encouragement and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

S. PILKINGTON,

Sanitary Inspector.



## **ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE**

### **Water Supplies**

Samples of the water supply to the area have been taken and only one, a private supply, proved to be unsatisfactory. As a main supply was available in close proximity to the premises concerned the matter was quickly remedied. Complaints of unpalatable smell and taste of the town's water supply, have been passed to the Accrington District Water Board who are giving the matter their attention.

### **Drainage**

By far the most important feature of drainage work in Rishton is the conversion of the insanitary waste water closets to fresh water closets. Seventeen of these conversions were carried out during the year. A grant of £6 per authorised conversion is made by the Council who wish to encourage this work.

### **Public Cleansing Service**

A weekly collection has been maintained satisfactorily during the year. Collections are also made twice weekly at trade premises within the District, for which a nominal charge is made. The single Karrier Bantam which operates the service throughout the District has been thoroughly overhauled and is now in a fit condition for several year's service. A new house refuse tip of approximately 6 acres has been acquired on a 14-year lease. This tip is adjacent to the old site on which tipping operations are practically completed. The position regarding the sale of salvage deteriorated rapidly during the year, the price of waste paper falling from 15/6d. per cwt. in January to 6/3d. per cwt. in December. In November the demand for waste paper fell off and difficulty was experienced in making a sale. By the end of the year stocks were accumulating, whilst more salvage was appearing in the weekly collections due to private concerns being unable to sell. Below is a table showing the sales throughout the year:—



		Tons	Cwts.	Qts.	£	s.	d.
January	... ..	6	2	3	104	5	8
February	... ..	5	—	2	89	16	4
March	... ..	2	3	1	38	3	5
April	... ..	4	5	3	54	13	3
May	... ..	2	17	—	24	4	6
June	... ..	3	1	—	25	18	6
July	... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
August	... ..	6	10	2	40	15	8
September	... ..	6	1	—	37	16	4
October	... ..	2	18	—	18	2	6
November	... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
		38	19	3	433	16	2

Ferrous Metals	... ..	26	10	6
Non-Ferrous Metals	... ..	13	1	9
Rags	... ..	7	10	0
Jars	... ..	2	11	0
		£49	13	3

Receipts for Tippings ... .. £136 1 0

### RODENT CONTROL

The one part-time operator has been engaged in the systematic disinfection of the sewers, and at such points at which heavy infestations are likely to occur, i.e., the house refuse tip, the Sewage Disposal Works and in the vicinity of the canal. Several dwelling houses and business premises have been treated for rodent infestation, the majority of which were due to defects in the drainage system, which having been remedied, the infestations have not recurred. In order to encourage the notification of such infestations at dwelling houses the Council provide a free disinfection service.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Seventeen samples of milk were taken during the year and proved to be satisfactory from the point of view of cleanliness. Two samples however re-acted to the Tuberculosis-biological test and details of these were forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries which resulted in the seizure of one animal under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Routine inspection of food shops was the main feature in the supervision of food, when it was found that the premises and methods employed were, on the whole, good.

One case of swine fever occurred in the District during the year involving twelve pigs. All offal and one carcase were rejected as unfit for human consumption.

### Unsound Food

The following food stuffs have been rejected during the year as being unfit for human consumption:—

Vegetable Soup .....	20 Tins
Veal .....	16 lbs.
Ham .....	60 lbs.
Rabbit .....	410 lbs.
Sardines .....	8 Tins
Kidneys .....	12 oz.
Fruit .....	6 Tins
Luncheon Meat .....	4 lbs.
Pork .....	3½ lbs.
Peas .....	4 Tins

## HOUSING INSPECTION

Houses inspected for housing defects .....	72
Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	187
Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation .....	1
Number of dwelling houses found not in all respects fit for human habitation .....	65
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after informal action .....	57
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notice was served .....	2
Number made fit by owner after service of formal notice ...	2

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

### Part I of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):

	Number on Register		Inspec- tions		Written notices		Occupiers prose- cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	11	...	24	...	—	...	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	52	...	67	...	—	...	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Total ...	63	...	91	...	—	...	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found:

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Insp.	Referred By H.M. Insp.		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	—	—	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—						
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	1	—	—	2	—

